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Message Text

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21
ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INT-05 NSF-01 NAS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /035 R

DRAFTED BY OES/APT/BMP:TSELLIN:MJ
APPROVED BY OES/APT/BMP:JCFRY
EUR/NE:MR. DONCHI
DOD/ONR:MR. MCGREGOR
---------- 115798
O R 242050Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237719

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NO, SV, TGEN

SUBJECT:NANSEN DRIFT STATION PROJECT - NORWEGIAN PRESS INTEREST

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. BJORN HANSEN, ARBEIDERBLADET, AND HENRY HENRIKSEN, NTB, MET WITH OFFICERS OF OES/APT/BMP AND EUR/NE ON SEPTEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS NANSEN DRIFT STATION PROJECT. STORIES MAY APPEAR IN NORWEGIAN PRESS IN MONDAY EDITIONS.

2. PROJECT WAS DESCRIBED BY DEPARTMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A) CONCEPT FOR PROJECT HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR YEARS IN U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY;

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B) DETAILED PLANNING STARTED SEVERAL YEARS AGO IN

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY SET UP BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL POLAR RESEARCH BOARD OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES;

C) SCIENTIFIC PLAN RECENTLY APPROVED BY BOARD OF NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL;

D) PLAN IS NOW BEING EXAMINED BY SEVERAL U.S. GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL AGENCIES, TO DETERMINE HOW PROJECT WILL BE FUNDED;

E) IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT DEPENDS ON FUNDING AND AVAILABILITY OF USCG ICEBREAKER BURTON ISLAND FOR USE AS DRIFT PLATFORM. WE HOPE FUNDING QUESTION WILL BE WORKED OUT SATISFACTORILY IN DUE COURSE. DELAY IN AVAILABILITY OF ICEBREAKER BURTON ISLAND HAS POSTPONED POSSIBLE COMMENCEMENT OF DRIFT TO OCTOBER 1978;

F) PROJECT IS U.S. FLAG AND CIVILIAN. PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH PROGRAM BY SCIENTISTS OF OTHER NATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM CIRCUM-ARCTIC COUNTRIES WILL BE WELCOME AND SOLICITED. A NORWEGIAN SCIENTIST AND THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY PARTICIPATED IN ASPECTS OF PROGRAM PLANNING. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES, AND PRESUMABLY GOVERNMENTS OF CIRCUM-ARCTIC COUNTRIES ARE AWARE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT;

G) NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT TO OTHER COUNTRIES HAS BEEN MADE BECAUSE PROJECT HAS NOT YET CLEARED BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES IN USG.

3. RE SVALBARD: IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES ABOUT USE OF SVALBARD FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PROJECT, JOURNALISTS WERE INFORMED THAT LOGISTIC SUPPORT WOULD REQUIRE ONE OR SEVERAL STAGING POINTS IN THE ARCTIC. THERE ARE SEVERAL UNDER CONSIDERATION ALTHOUGH SVALBARD DOES HAVE SOME ADVANTAGES OVER OTHERS, ESPECIALLY IN LATTER PHASE OF DRIFT.

ANY SPECIAL STAGING FACILITY, WHEREVER LOCATED, WOULD
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PROBABLY HAVE MANNING LEVEL OF APPROXIMATELY 6-12 PERSONS, EXCLUDING TRANSIENTS. 200 FIGURE REPORTED IN AFTENPOSTEN EARLIER IS GROSS EXAGGERATION. IN THE EVENT THAT SVALBARD IS ACTUALLY USED, APPROPRIATE NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES WILL BE FULLY INFORMED OF ONGOING PLANS.

4. JOURNALISTS WERE GIVEN THE PROPOSED SCIENTIFIC PLAN FOR THE NANSEN DRIFT STATION PROJECT.

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5. FUNDING NOT YET RESOLVED. NO AGENCY HAS AS YET AGREED TO TAKE ON THE PROJECT. AGENCY REPS, IN THEIR CAPACITIES

AS MEMBERS OF THE INTERAGENCY ARCTIC RESEARCH COORDINATING COMMITTEE (IARCC), OF WHICH STATE IS A MEMBER, RECENTLY REQUESTED THE IARCC CHAIRMAN TO ADDRESS A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISER EXPRESSING THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE THAT THE PROJECT BE DESIGNATED A NATIONAL PROJECT AND THAT SEPARATE FUNDS BE PROVIDED BY OMB. LETTER NOT YET SENT.

6. ONE AGENCY (ONR) IS ABLE TO PUT UP ABOUT HALF OF THE FUNDS, BUT OTHER AGENCIES ARE RELUCTANT TO FUND LARGE PORTION OF PROJECT WHOSE SCIENTIFIC RESULTS WILL BE COSTLY, I.E., COULD REACH $30 MILLION. PLANNING IS STILL GOING AHEAD, HOWEVER, TO REFIT THE BURTON ISLAND AFTER ITS RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE IN MID 1977 WITH AVAILABILITY FOR PROJECT COMMENCEMENT IN OCTOBER 1978. DEPARTMENT FULLY RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL ASPECTS TO BOTH U.S. AND NORWAY. WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO EXPEDITE FAVORABLE DECISION AND SECURE ADEQUATE FUNDING. KISSINGER

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /019 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:OES/APT/BMP:TSELLIN:MJ
APPROVED BY:OES/APT/BMP:JCFRY
EUR/NE:D. DONCHI
---------- 037017
R 122120Z OCT 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 5524
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237719

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 237719 ACTION OSLO INFO MOSCOW DTD 24 SEP 76.

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237719

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Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: TGEN, NO, SV, US
To: OSLO
Type: TE
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